



AMBASSADOR

Dated. 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018

To.

**Mr. Stephen Twigg MP**  
Chairman  
International Development Committee (IDC)

Dear Mr. Stephen Twigg MP,

As it came to my attention that the International Development Committee (IDC) is scheduled to hold an Oral Evidence Session: "Bangladesh, Burma and the Rohingya follow up Session" on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018, I would like to provide you with an update on the recent developments in Myanmar for information.

It was unfortunate that the initial proposed trip by the IDC to Myanmar during March 2018, did not materialise as the dates coincided with important Myanmar Government holidays. I would like to point out that a visit of such nature, which includes meetings with high level Myanmar Government officials and a trip to Rakhine State, should be negotiated and arranged in mutually convenient dates acceptable for both sides. In view of this important fact, the Myanmar side has enquired to the IDC of a proposal for the best convenient dates for the visit, which we have received an indication that the visit will likely be rescheduled to the coming year of 2019. In this connection, I would like to reiterate that our Embassy remains ready to facilitate the meetings between the officials of the relevant Myanmar ministries and the members of the Committee during the visit.

As you may be aware, the situation of Rakhine State is exceptionally complex and sensitive. Therefore, Myanmar believes that holistic approach, which includes preventive measures as well as finding short and long term solutions are necessary. The situation can be described as the result of sovereignty, territorial integrity, rule of law, terrorism, illegal immigration, poverty and extremism. I would like to highlight the fact that the root cause of the tragic current humanitarian crisis was terrorism committed by Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), and that it is a crisis which affects more than just one community. As it has clearly become obvious, in a rare move, Amnesty International released a report during May 2018, detailing the massacre of 99 Hindus by ARSA terrorist. Focusing on a particular side of the situation and a particular community will take us nowhere. There is no denying that the Muslim community in Rakhine State has suffered. At the same time, the Buddhist Rakhine, Hindu and other ethnic minorities have suffered not less. Many overlooked the facts and sufferings, insecurity and fears of Rakhine and many other ethnic minorities. The challenges in Rakhine State must be seen in a broader dimension, including protecting human rights and security to all communities as well as addressing their fears and providing assistance for development.

The narrative of the situation which is familiar in the international community has been incomplete and misleading. While some issues were given extra attention, some were understated; mixing in unverified allegations have been reported and expressed as facts, with the deliberate intention of tarnishing the image and integrity of our leadership and country. The Government of Myanmar has stated time and again that no violation of human rights will be condoned. Allegations supported by concrete evidence will be investigated and action taken in accordance with the law.

### **Efforts of the Government of Myanmar**

Since the present Myanmar Government took office in March 2016, a Central Committee on Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development of Rakhine State with four Working Committees was formed in May 2016 led by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to resolve the issues in Rakhine. Moreover, the Government established an Advisory Commission on Rakhine State led by former UN Secretary-General, the late Dr. Kofi Annan to assist the Government in finding long-term solutions. Even as constructive steps were being undertaken, in October 2016 and subsequently, in an effort to disrupt the Government's efforts, coordinated terrorist attacks on three border police outposts took place resulting in casualties and displacement of peoples in the affected areas. Then, the Government set up a national-level Investigation Commission, chaired by Vice President U Myint Swe in December 2016 to investigate the incidents of violent attacks in Maungdaw.

Unfortunately, again on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2017, soon after the release of the Advisory Commission's final report, ARSA launched a series of lethal attacks against 30 police outposts and a Regiment Headquarter. Thus, clearance operations by the security forces had to be followed and accusations appeared in the international arena.

Myanmar shared deep sympathy and concern for all displaced persons. In this context, the Myanmar side has been striving for all possible efforts for preparation to receive the returnees as voluntarily, in safety and in a dignified manner. Concerning the recommendations of the Advisory Commission, the Government has welcomed the Commission's final report for constructive ways forward for Rakhine State and also is implementing its recommendations for long-term solutions. In this connection, the Government set up the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State, chaired by the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in September 2017 in order to implement the recommendations. Additionally, aiming to provide external perspective and advice to that Committee, an Advisory Board for the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State led by H.E. Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, former Thai Deputy Prime Minister was formed with Myanmar nationals and regional and international experts, including Lord Darzi of Denham from the United Kingdom on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

### **Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD)**

On the humanitarian assistance context, the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) led by the State Counsellor has been set up to provide various humanitarian and development projects with great momentum in the implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Commission. Ten task forces were formed to participate in the UEHRD programme and are working closely with

Government organisations, the private sector as well as the civil society. International partners, donor agencies, UN organisations are also being invited to participate in the process.

### **Myanmar-Bangladesh Bilateral Cooperation**

As bilateral efforts, Myanmar and Bangladesh, have signed bilateral agreements for repatriation process. As decided in the Physical Arrangement, Myanmar has been ready to receive verified returnees since 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018. Myanmar has opened two reception centres and a Transit Camp, and had informed Bangladesh side with information relating to resettlement plan, the provision of livelihood assistance, access to basic services, and safety arrangement for the verified returnees. As of 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018, we have informed the Bangladesh side with the lists of 4,561 verified persons, and found 3,613 as Myanmar residents, 47 as terrorists and 901 as having no records out of their list of 8,032 persons. On 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018, Myanmar summoned Bangladesh Ambassador and reminded of our readiness to commence repatriation of verified displaced persons and to send the lists of displaced persons using the right forms as agreed. Again recently, H.E. U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for State Counsellor Office met with Bangladesh Foreign Minister H.E. Abul Hassan Mahmud Ali during their visit to China. The Bangladesh Foreign Minister was also invited to Myanmar from 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> August to discuss further on expediting the repatriation process. In this context, Myanmar needs full and sincere cooperation of the Government of Bangladesh, for the repatriation process to be successful.

### **National Verification Process**

With regard to citizenship, the National Verification Process will be continued for those who have been verified and repatriated in Rakhine State. Holders of the National Verification Card (NVC) will be able to enjoy rights such as freedom of movement in Rakhine and access to education and healthcare services, etc. The citizenship verification process in line with Myanmar's existing laws and regulations will be continued. Also, a strategy with specific timelines has been developed to move forward to the National Verification Process. This is the process which needs the cooperation from all communities, especially from the Muslims community.

### **MoU with United Nations Agencies**

Regarding the cooperation with the United Nations Agencies, on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018, the Government of Myanmar and UNDP and UNHCR signed the MoU on assistance to the repatriation process of displaced persons from Rakhine State. Then access has been given to UN officials to the affected area as well as we could arrange meetings and visit of Technical Working Group (TWG) to Maungtaw region. The signing of the MOU is expected to enhance the work already undertaken by the Myanmar Government for voluntary, safe and dignified repatriation of the displaced persons. We sincerely believe that the repatriation process will hasten with the UN's involvement. Moreover, the Government has facilitated the visit of members of the Security Council as well as the visits of Ms. Christine Burgener, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on Myanmar. Myanmar has opened a new UN office in Nay Pyi Taw on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018. The Government is committed to maintaining a constructive and fruitful relationship with the Special Envoy in our efforts to deepen partnership with the UN in addressing the complex challenges confronting the country.

## **Independent Commission of Enquiry**

Furthermore, to address the human rights violation accusations, the Government has established an Independent Commission of Enquiry led by Ambassador Rosario Manalo, former Deputy Foreign Minister of the Philippines with international and national experts to investigate the allegations of human rights violations and related issues, following the terrorist attacks by ARSA on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

The above information are the efforts by the Government of Myanmar to find peace, harmony, and development for all communities in Rakhine. Moreover, recognising peace as the prerequisite and enabler for the development, we have revitalised the peace process with numerous ethnic armed groups to end the internal armed conflicts and bring peace to the whole country. The three Union Peace Conferences held so far have also made some significant progress despite complexities and challenges.

Myanmar trusts in constructive engagement and cooperation based on the principles of objectivity, mutual respect and understanding. In view of this, Myanmar has created a positive environment at fullest extent as possible within the available time frame to resolve the issues of Rakhine State. The Myanmar Government is committed to bringing peace, stability and development to Rakhine State as well as to the whole country.

In this light, it is vital that one needs to understand and to have a fair assessment and balance view of the situation. Views of the Government and people of Myanmar should not be neglected, but taken into consideration. I can assure you, no one craves more for a long lasting peace and stability in Rakhine State than the Government and people of Myanmar.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to request your support and understanding concerning the complex issue of Rakhine and the Government's endeavours to address all these challenges. I am desirous to see the constructive support, engagement and understanding of the Government of the United Kingdom and Parliament on Myanmar's efforts in finding lasting solutions. These kinds of encouragements from the international community, will assist Myanmar to succeed in its long road to create a peaceful, prosperous and democratic nation amid its complexities and challenges.

I am also enclosing herewith the Press Releases of the Government of Myanmar and the letter of H.E. U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister of the Office of the State Counsellor to UNDP Resident Representative a.i and UNHCR Representative for your kind information.

Yours sincerely,



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Kyaw Zwar Minn  
Ambassador



**Republic of the Union of Myanmar**  
**Office of the President**

**Press Release**

12<sup>th</sup> Waning of Wagaung 1380 ME

7 September 2018

The Government of Myanmar regrets the majority decision of the Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court (“the Court”), asserting that it may exercise jurisdiction with regard to Myanmar. Myanmar resolutely rejects the decision which is the result of faulty procedure and is of dubious legal merit.

Myanmar reiterates its position, that not being a party to the Rome Statute, it is under no obligation to respect the ruling of the Court. The decision was the result of manifest bad faith, procedural irregularities and general lack of transparency. Permission was given to organizations to file *amicus curiae* submissions without consideration of their identity or the beneficial scope of their proposed contributions. Several of the briefs submitted did not address legal issues. Furthermore, allegations consisting of charged narratives of harrowing personal tragedies which have nothing to do with the legal arguments in question were permitted thereby putting emotional pressure on the Court. Submissions of observations by these groups had the intended effect of placing the Court in an emotional bind.

Myanmar has rightly contended that the Prosecutor has incorrectly applied Article 19(3) in its request for a ruling from the Court on jurisdiction when the Court is not properly seized of the matter.

We are heartened to learn that one of the Judges, Judge Marc Perrin de Brichambaut shares this opinion. It has been reported that Judge Marc Perrin de Brichambaut is of the view that Article 19 (3) and 119 (1) of the Rome Statute are inapplicable and that the principle of *la competence de la competence* cannot serve as an alternative basis for the Chamber to provide a ruling.

The allegations of deportation cannot be further from the truth. Myanmar reiterates that it has not deported any individuals in the areas of concern and in fact has worked hard in collaboration with Bangladesh to repatriate those displaced from their homes. Several bilateral agreements have been signed such as the “Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State” between the Governments of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh.

In fact the Union Minister for the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor, went to Rakhine in October 2017, together with the Ambassadors of the four neighbouring countries including the Ambassador of Bangladesh to persuade the people who are preparing to leave Rakhine, to not do so but the effort was in vain.

The Government upon taking office in 2016, immediately set up the Central Committee for Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development of Rakhine State to address the issue. This was immediately followed by the setting up of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State headed by the late Mr. Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide recommendations for bringing about peace, stability and development to Rakhine State.

The Government has time and again reiterated its principled position of promoting and implementing the rule of law, justice and accountability. On 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018, it had established the Independent Commission of Enquiry to investigate the violations of human rights and related issues in regard to Rakhine. The Independent Commission of Enquiry includes two international personalities well versed in the issue of humanitarian assistance and human rights as well as Myanmar nationals with judicial background and relevant UN experience. Myanmar is both willing and able to investigate any crimes and violations of human rights in its own territory.

The over-extended application of jurisdiction challenges the fundamental principle of legal certainty and is contrary to accepted principles of public international law. It has created a dangerous precedent and erodes the moral authority of the Court.



Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor

PRESS RELEASE

( Dated: 9 August 2018 )

**Background**

The International Criminal Court ("the Court" or ICC") was established through the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court ("the Rome Statute"). The ICC has the jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. Myanmar is **not party** to the Rome Statute and the Court has no jurisdiction on Myanmar whatsoever.

Regardless, the ICC's Prosecutor has made a *Prosecution's Request for a Ruling on Jurisdiction under Article 19(3) of the Statute* ("the Request") to the ICC and has requested Myanmar to submit its opinion.

Myanmar has declined to engage with the ICC by way of a formal reply due to the reasons stated below.

**A. Bad Faith (*Mala Fides*)**

1. The Request by the Prosecutor may be interpreted as an indirect attempt to acquire jurisdiction over Myanmar which is not a State Party to the Rome Statute.
2. Myanmar, as a non-State Party, is under no obligation to enter into litigation with the Prosecutor at the ICC or even to accept *notes verbales* emanating from their Registry by reference to article 34 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties ("Vienna Convention").
3. The actions of the Prosecutor, constitute an attempt to circumvent the spirit of article 34 of the Vienna Convention. By allowing such a contrived procedure, the ICC may set a dangerous precedent whereby future populist causes and complaints against non - State Parties to the Rome Statute may be litigated at the urging of biased stakeholders and

non-governmental organizations and even then, selectively based on the political current of the times.

4. The Prosecutor appears to have chosen to ignore the fact that the United Nations Security Council has issued a Presidential Statement stressing the need for transparent investigations of alleged human rights abuses while, at the same time, recognizing Myanmar's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Respect for Myanmar's sovereignty would permit it to continue to investigate all violations of international humanitarian law whether committed by its own forces or by elements hostile to the Government authorities such as the forces of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army ("ARSA").

#### **B. Procedural Framework Irregularities**

5. It is submitted that the Prosecution has incorrectly applied Article 19(3) request for a ruling from the Court on jurisdiction when the Court is not properly seized of the matter. Article 19(3) was intended to allow the Prosecutor to seek preliminary rulings on matters pertaining to jurisdiction and admissibility which arise in the normal conduct of proceedings ie. within a "situation". In this matter, the Prosecutor has bypassed important procedural safeguards and instead used Art. 19(3) to request preliminary rulings on issues of jurisdiction prior to even initiating proposed cases within a "situation".

6. In order to obtain the impartial facts necessary to substantiate a jurisdictional request, the Prosecutor should have conducted a preliminary examination, of the sort envisaged in the *chapeau* of article 53(1) of the Rome Statute. Failure to do so, even if it was in part due to financial reasons, was, in fact, an abandonment of her mandatory duty to exercise her unique discretion under article 53(1)(a), namely to evaluate the information to see if it provides a reasonable basis for believing that a crime within the jurisdiction of the Court has been or is being committed.

7. With the benefit of a proper preliminary examination, the Prosecutor would possibly have dealt with the sources of information forming the basis for the Request with more circumspection. As it is, the sources on which the Prosecutor has relied for the purpose of the Request present a completely one-sided and biased narrative of the events in Rakhine State.



8. The amendment of Regulation 46(3) of the Regulations of the Court ("RoC") on 29 June 2018, in the course of the present proceedings, must be viewed negatively, as it provides support for the Prosecutor. The effect of the amendment was to provide the Prosecutor with a short-circuit process to enable a speedy deliberation of this matter.

9. The Prosecutor had not sought the opening of an investigation by virtue of her *proprio motu* powers under article 15(3) of the Rome Statute. By her actions she has "put the cart before the horse" by approaching the Pre-Trial Chamber for a ruling on jurisdiction *before* conducting a preliminary examination. It is submitted that the Prosecutor has reversed accepted procedure without legal justification.

### C. Lack of Transparency

10. Myanmar is concerned with the lack of fairness and transparency of the ICC proceedings.

11. The regulations governing the conduct of ICC proceedings stipulates that reasons should be given for derogating from the default rule, namely that its hearings be conducted in public. Regulation 20 states among others, that when a Chamber orders that certain hearings be held in close or private session, the Chamber shall make public the reasons for such an order. In this matter, the Pre-Trial Chamber held an *ex parte Prosecutor only* status conference on 20 June 2018. It also debated issues placed, at the time, on a confidential agenda in a closed hearing without written justification and in blatant violation of its own regulations.

12. All issues discussed at the closed hearing would be of crucial importance and the fact that the Prosecutor's responses to some of these issues still remain confidential is both inexplicable and prejudicial.

13. The lack of transparency was further manifested when Bangladesh chose to file its observations with the Court confidentially. The Court has the ability to require a participant in the legal proceedings to present its submissions in a public manner or, at the very least, in a partially redacted fashion in order to safeguard vital interests. This was not done and, as a consequence, Myanmar could not reasonably have been expected to make an appropriately informed and formal response when it was denied the submissions of the very country on the territory of which jurisdiction is sought.

#### **D. Amici Curiae – prejudicial vs probative value**

14. The Court has permitted organizations to file *amicus curiae* submissions without consideration of their identity or the beneficial scope of their proposed contributions. Several of the briefs submitted did not address legal issues, but instead presented allegations consisting of mostly charged narratives of harrowing personal tragedies calculated to place emotional pressure on the Court.

#### **E. Victims (irregular application)**

15. Furthermore, the Court has allowed unsolicited victims' applications (something which, to date, has only ever happened in the context of a pre-existing "situation") which is a totally new development. This is worrying, because the Court appears to have predetermined or, at least, acquiesced to a procedural mechanism which would normally be subject to due process. Article 68(3) states that the Court shall permit views and concerns [*of victims*] to be presented and considered at stages of the proceedings .....in a manner which is not prejudicial to or inconsistent with the rights of the accused and a fair and impartial trial..."

16. It has been made known that several groups have *de facto* joined the legal process and have filed detailed observations, without the Court even ruling whether their participation is appropriate under regulation 86 of RoC. The unauthorized and unsolicited submission of observations by these groups has had the effect of placing the Court in a difficult emotional bind. Rejection of their submissions on the grounds of a flagrant procedural irregularity would have left the ICC judges exposed to a charge of callousness.

#### **F. Preconditions to the exercise of jurisdiction - Article 12(2)(a) of the Rome Statute**

17. Myanmar categorically rejects the proposition that the Court has jurisdiction as proposed by the Prosecutor in the Request. Myanmar also disagrees with the Prosecution's assertion that population displacement across a national boundary is an essential objective element of the crime of deportation set out in Article 7 (1) (d).

18. Furthermore, there is no organizational policy of the kind required for proving crimes against humanity under the Rome Statute. Such a policy would be hard to reconcile with the repatriation agreement signed between Myanmar and Bangladesh in November 2017, whereby both countries agreed on a short time frame for the voluntary return of all those who had left Rakhine State as a result of hostilities in the region. Myanmar and

Bangladesh also signed the Terms of Reference for the Joint Working Group (JWG) and Physical Arrangement for Repatriation of Displaced Myanmar Residents from Bangladesh (“the Physical Arrangement”). All these bilateral agreements are aimed to facilitate repatriation of verified residents of Rakhine State who crossed over to Bangladesh following the terrorist attacks in October 2016 and August 2017. There is no cap on the number to be repatriated and the process was to have commenced on 23 January 2018.

19. The Myanmar Government has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) with UNDP and UNHCR on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018. The MOU seeks UN participation in coordinating and harmonizing humanitarian and development action in Rakhine State, and in assisting the GoM in the voluntary, safe and dignified return of the displaced persons from Rakhine State who have been duly verified as residents of Myanmar according to the Arrangement.

#### **G. Complementarity**

20. The Myanmar government has on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2018 established an Independent Commission of Enquiry. The Commission consists of four members: two international members (one is the Chairperson of the Commission) and two national members. The Commission will investigate the allegations of human rights violations and related issues following the terror attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA).

#### **Conclusion**

21. For all the reasons cited above, Myanmar submits that the *Prosecution’s Request for a Ruling on Jurisdiction under Article 19(3) of the Statute* is meritless and should be dismissed.



*Union Minister  
Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar*

No. 001 (10)/1/2018 (2856)

Date 23 August 2018

Mr. Knut Ostby  
UNDP Resident Representative a.i.

Mr. Giuseppe de Vincentiis  
UNHCR Representative

Dear Representatives,

With reference to your letter dated 19 August 2018.

Thank you for your reiteration of UNDP and UNHCR's "full commitment to the prompt implementation of the MoU", which is well appreciated. To this end, we look forward to your fulfilment of that commitment to assist the Government of Myanmar's comprehensive and durable solutions to the issue of displacement.

As you are well aware and stated in the MoU, that the Government of Myanmar is responsible for the safety, reception and reintegration of the returnees and for the overall coordination and implementation of the voluntary repatriation exercise. In this respect, the Government has determined, that in the best interest of all affected parties, that this process should be done phase by phase. This incremental approach is in line with the principle that assistance must be designed and implemented in a way that is conflict sensitive. This will also be part of the confidence-building measures necessary to encourage social cohesion. I wish to reiterate that UNDP and UNHCR is assisting Myanmar in the implementation of the agreements between Myanmar and Bangladesh and the locations for resettlement is decided by the Government of Myanmar based on the principle that they will be resettled to their places of origin or to safe and secure places nearest to it. The Government has decided the sites based on this and UNDP and UNCHR are given access to these potential areas. I therefore regret to categorically reject your notion that effective access has not materialised.

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The first phase will cover 13 Village-Sites (23 villages). The Government of Myanmar is looking forward to the UNDP / UNHCR assessment results to encourage voluntary repatriation and reintegration. It is important for the UN to show success in phase one and build upon those successes in phase 2 assessments. A step by step, building block approach would be necessary in Rakhine to ensure comprehensive and durable solutions. Therefore, we seriously encourage the UN to take advantage of the access that is given and make the assessment as soon as possible and provide concrete results and propose quick impact projects for the consideration of the Government.

In relation to the request for effective access, please be advised that Travel Authorisations have been given on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018 for all the 13 Village-Sites. We have noted that UNHCR and UNDP have reiterated their full commitment to implement quickly all the provisions and activities contained in the MoU including the provisions related to displaced persons currently residing on Myanmar territory along the international border between Myanmar and Bangladesh as contained in paragraph 11 of the MoU. Therefore, your request, for access to village-tracts :Taung Pyo Let Yar; Kum Thee Pin; and Mee Taik has been granted. The MoLIP will be issuing the necessary Travel Authorisation for the additional 3 village-tracts. Therefore, we trust that the UNDP and UNHCR will proceed immediately with the assessment under phase one.

The UNDP-UNHCR Field Assessment Plan: Outline dated 31 July 2018, envisaged that there will be four assessment teams, which each team consisting of an estimate 6-7 persons. With the 13 Village-Sites (23 villages) it is hoped that the assessments and focus-group discussions can reap the required information including on-site assessments. Travel Authorisations are provided for the teams.

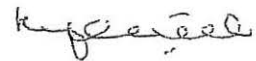
I wish to stress that the Travel Authorisation is separate from the requirement for information on specific dates and locations of visits. The information is required for the safety of the UNDP and UNHCR personnel and to enable the Government to provide the necessary logistic support.

We appreciate that the UNDP and UNHCR has taken note of the request for the provision of humanitarian assistance be given to the people residing on Myanmar territory along the international border. Please state with certainty whether UNDP and UNHCR is able to provide humanitarian assistance either in the positive or negative. We are actually requesting that the current humanitarian assistance given from Bangladesh side be given from Myanmar side. This is also the agreement

reached between myself and the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh during his last visit.

Finally, the MoU has made it clear that the UNDP/UNHRC will collaborate to support the Government of Myanmar to find voluntary and safe solutions in dignity for the displaced persons currently residing along the international border in an expeditious manner. With the provision of the Travel Authorisation for the total of 13 sites and 3 village-tracts, we hope the UNDP and UNHCR with goodwill will proceed with the assessments without further delay.

Yours sincerely,



(Kyaw Tint Swe)